United Nations A/56/561/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (e)

Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 25th and 37th meetings, on 6 November and 7 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.25 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1 and A/C.2/56/L.53

2. At the 25th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69413 (E) 151201

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998, 54/224 of 22 December 1999 and 55/202 of 20 December 2000,

"*Recalling further* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Recalling also* the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,

"*Recognizing* that, in addition to the general problems of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited fresh water supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

"*Recognizing also* the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system,

"*Welcoming* the report of the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2000, and the report of the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Cyprus in January 2001,

"*Noting* the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through necessary financial support from the international donor community,

"*Acknowledging* the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Welcoming also* the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on trade, sustainable development and small island developing States in December 2001,

"*Noting* the current efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States to organize an interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing

States for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, to be held in Singapore in January 2002, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of resolution 2001/PC/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Emphasizing* the critical need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,

"*Noting with appreciation* the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

"*Noting* the work being undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy and other international organizations on a vulnerability index, which incorporates, inter alia, environmental and economic vulnerability factors,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively mitigate the impacts of globalization and achieve sustainable development;

"3. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

"4. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

"5. *Calls upon* donors, as well as all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, to support the interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States to be held in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

"7. *Urges* all relevant organizations, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, to finalize as a matter of urgency the work on the development of a vulnerability index to assist affected developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in bringing resolution to their concerns;

"8. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing

States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

"9. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to consider further ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination of and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action, through the Small Island Developing States Unit, including an inter-agency task force to carry out these tasks;

"10. *Welcomes* the contributions of donor countries to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit and SIDSnet, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular in support of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States';

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/56/L.53), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.53 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998, 54/224 of 22 December 1999 and 55/202 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling further the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[4]

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States can experience specific problems arising from smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

Recognizing also the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system,

Noting the report of the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[5] held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2000, and the report of the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[6] held in Cyprus in January 2001,

Noting the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the local, national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through necessary financial support in partnership with the international community,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

---

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[4] TD/390.

[5] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[6] E/CN.17/2001/11, annex.

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on trade, sustainable development and small island developing States in December 2001,

Noting the current efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States to organize an interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Singapore in January 2002, and calling upon all relevant international organizations actively to support the meeting,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[7]

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

Emphasizing the need to complete, without delay, the quantitative and analytical work on the vulnerability index mandated in the review document of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/43 of 24 October 2001, particularly its paragraph 6, and emphasizing the relevance of such work to the work of the Committee for Development Policy on criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of least developed countries and its importance to relevant small island developing States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and of the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to achieve sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

5. *Invites* donors, as well as all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, to provide appropriate support to the interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

---

[7] See A/S-22/4.

[8] A/56/170.

7. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, taking into account the special circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

8. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to strengthen the Unit further, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short- and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to consider further cost-effective ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action, through the Small Island Developing States Unit, including concrete measures for improving coordination within the United Nations system;

10. *Welcomes* the contributions of donor countries to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Small Island Developing States Network, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular in support of the Network;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.